



Sixth Annual Fatherhood Conference
**Nurturing Children,
Leaving Legacies**



**Presented by the Michigan Head Start Association and the
Michigan Fatherhood Coalition**

Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn, Michigan
February 1, 2008



A Conference for Those Committed to Fatherhood.

For Fathers:

- ♦ The Berenstain Bears' Papa or Eric Carle's Mr. Seahorse: How Books for Young Children Portray Fathers
- ♦ Together or Apart: Co-Parenting for the Best Interests of the Child
- ♦ Navigating the Friend of the Court
- ♦ A Different Kind of Dream: The Dynamics of Parenting Children with Special Needs
- ♦ Healing the Fatherhood Drama: How to Release and Let Go of Fatherhood Issues
- ♦ If You Two Can't Play with that Toy Right... Coaching Your Children to Conflict Resolution
- ♦ Learn to Play, Play to Learn: Become the Play Expert in Your Family

For Fatherhood Practitioners:

- ♦ The Next Level: An Open Space Panel for Practitioners
- ♦ Navigating the Friend of the Court
- ♦ Healthy Families Aren't Perfect Families! The Impact of Family Relationships on Child Development
- ♦ FAST Babies: Engaging Fathers in their Baby's Life
- ♦ Together or Apart: Co-Parenting for the Best Interests of the Child
- ♦ Court Mandated Fatherhood Programs: Helping Good Fathers to be Better Fathers



Support the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition!

The Michigan Fatherhood Coalition will have T-Shirts available for purchase at the Conference for \$12 (M-XL) and \$15 (2X and 3X)!

A 50/50 raffle will also be held to support the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition. Tickets will be available for purchase for \$1.00 each or 7 for \$5.00.

Registration: 8:00 - 9:15

**Welcome and Opening General Session:
9:15 - 10:00**



Martin Ramirez: Mentoring Future Leaders

In a society fraught with negative influences, how do you raise a child that will succeed? Author and father Martin Ramirez opens the Fatherhood Conference with an inspiring message to help dads do just that! He encourages fathers to examine their parenting style, and provides practical, easy-to-use strategies that will help fathers raise our future leaders.

Session I: 10:15 - 11:30:

1. The Berenstain Bears' Papa or Eric Carle's Mr. Seahorse: How Books for Young Children Portray Fathers

Professor Sally Adler, Washtenaw Community College

This workshop will preview many of the books available for preschool children that have fathers or male role models. We will explore what children learn about men through books, and attendees will receive an annotated bibliography and specific strategies to help children develop a positive attitude and expectations for the nurturing but strong father.

2. The Next Level: An Open Space Panel for Practitioners: Pt. 1

This interactive session will provide practitioners an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to their Fatherhood Program in an open space format, with small groups facilitated by Fatherhood professionals.

3. Navigating The Friend of the Court

David Manville, 3rd Circuit Court of Wayne County

The friend of the court can be intimidating. What are your rights? Come join David Manville and learn about the functions of the Friend of the Court, with a focus on child support and custody issues.

4. A Different Kind of Dream: The Dynamics of Parenting Children with Special Needs

Craig Stone, Dynamic Dads

This workshop will discuss the importance of having a positive father figure in their day-to-day lives, and how father-love is different from mother-love, as well as why it matters. You'll also examine the emotional and mental responses that can and do occur when parents find out that their child has a disability, developmental delay, or a chronic illness, as will the positive ideas and strategies you can utilize to address those challenges.

Luncheon Keynote Adeyemi Bandele: **11:45 - 1:15**



Adeyemi Bandele is the founder and Executive Director of Men on the Move, a Washington, DC based organization designed to support the empowerment of men to be better fathers, sons, husbands, lovers and friends. Along with his wife, Ngozi Bandele, they provide relationship support for married and unmarried couples. A major focus of his work is to support the healing of challenged relationships between fathers and their children.

Adeyemi will discuss the joys and challenges of fatherhood by drawing from his own experience as a father of seven children as well as a man who experienced an absent father. He will also discuss the process of reconciliation within a family when relationships have been troubled.

Session II: 1:30 – 2:45

5. Healing the Fatherhood Drama: How to Release and Let Go of Fatherhood Issues: Pt. 1

Adeyemi Bandele and Ngozi Bandele, Consultants

Note: attendees should plan to attend part two of this workshop.

This two-part workshop is designed to support the healing of challenged relationships between children and their fathers. Anyone who is still holding onto anger, resentment, or pain from their relationship with their father will benefit from the workshop experience. Fathers who need to heal their relationship with their children will learn techniques to reconnect with their children. Additionally, practioners will benefit from learning the process to support the healing of their clients.

6. The Next Level: An Open Space Panel for Practitioners: Pt. 2

This interactive session will provide practitioners an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns related to their Fatherhood Program in an open space format, with small groups facilitated by Fatherhood professionals.

7. FAST Babies: Engaging Fathers in their Baby's Life

Thomas Johnson, Trainer, FAST National Training & Evaluation Center

This workshop will focus on the FAST Babies program, and describe how it supports an early childhood comprehensive system that is designed to reduce parental stress and social isolation among young mothers and thereby reduce the risk factors that have been linked to the abuse of infants. FAST Babies has been show to increase social support, reduce stress, increase family cohesion, improve parent-child relationships, and provide families with access to resources in the community.

8. If You Two Can't Play with that Toy Right... Coaching Your Children to Conflict Resolution

Kathy Sims, Consultant

Conflicts among young children are inevitable and frustrating, but they also provide opportunities to help children develop conflict resolution skills. You'll learn techniques to resolve child conflict that can be used with young toddlers, preschoolers, and older children.

Session III: 3:00 - 4:15

9. Healing the Fatherhood Drama: How to Release and Let Go of Fatherhood Issues: Pt. 2

Note: attendees should plan to attend part one of this workshop.

This second part of this two part workshop, it is designed to support the healing of challenged relationships between children and their fathers.

10. Together or Apart: Co-Parenting for the Best Interests of the Child

Barry Kaufman, Ph.D, Clinton-Ingham-Eaton Community Mental Health

Working together can be tough - whether you live together or not! Explore the challenges of co-parenting with another adult, including establishing priorities, communication, decision making, and parenting strategies.

11. Court Mandated Fatherhood Programs: Helping Good Fathers to Be Better Fathers

Michael Snyder-Barker, LMSW, CAAC, Insight Counseling of Tecumseh

Geared towards practitioners, participants will enjoy anecdotes, role plays, and educational materials to more effectively help men mandated by service agencies to receive parenting classes. You will receive "hands on" tools to use that have been created to complement the Nurturing Father's program, but that can be used with any program.

12. Learn to Play, Play to Learn: Become the Play Expert in Your Family

Kevin Zoromski and Carla Dropiewski, Facilitators, Dynamic Dads

Play is not only a great way to connect with your kids, but it also has a profound impact on a child's development! Discuss the skills involved with play, and ways to involve the entire family. You'll discover age appropriate toys, how they can be adapted to work with multiple abilities, and where to find toys for children with delays or disabilities.



Conference Hotel Information:
Doubletree Hotel
5801 Southfield Expressway, Dearborn, MI, 48228
Tel: 1 313 336 3340

The conference will take place at the Doubletree Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan. A special discount rate of \$84 / night has been negotiated with the Doubletree Hotel for attendees of the Fatherhood Conference. Please identify yourself as part of the Michigan Head Start Association to get this special rate. The hotel has been recently renovated, with a swimming pool, whirlpool, and fitness center. Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel for \$9.95 / night.

To make reservations at the Doubletree: call 313 336 3340 on or before January 18, 2008. Discount rate is not guaranteed after that date. Have a credit card available to secure your reservation.

The Doubletree's ample parking is free! MHSA will provide a pasta buffet lunch for all attendees (included in registration fee) that will include a vegetarian option. Those who for dietary reasons require a substitution should contact the MHSA at 517 374 6472 and ask for Michelle.

Driving Directions:

From the West: I-96 East to M-39 South (Southfield Freeway - Exit 183) to Ford Rd. (Exit 7) West. Once on Ford Rd. West, at 2nd light turn right. Hotel is located behind Wendy's & Chili's Restaurants.

From the East: I-94 West to M-39 North (Southfield Freeway - Exit 204) to Ford Rd. (Exit 7) West. Once on Ford Rd. West, at 2nd light turn right. Hotel is located behind Wendy's & Chili's Restaurants.

From the South: I-75 North to M-39 North (Southfield Freeway - Exit 41) to Ford Rd. (Exit 7) West. Once on Ford Rd. West, at 2nd light turn right. Hotel is located behind Wendy's and Chili's Restaurants.

From the North: I-75 South to I-696 West to M-39 South (Southfield Freeway - Exit 183) to Ford Rd. (Exit 7) West. Once on Ford Rd. West, at 2nd light turn right. Hotel is located behind Wendy's and Chili's Restaurants.



Scholarships for Fathers!

The Michigan Head Start Association is pleased to announce that a LIMITED NUMBER of scholarships are being offered to fathers who wish to attend the Fatherhood Conference. This will cover the entire \$55.00 cost of the conference and includes lunch. A limited number of scholarships are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please call 517 374 6472, e-mail michelle@mhsa.ws, or visit www.mhsa.ws for more information.

Registration Form

Name (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Title: _____ Agency: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Master Card or Visa Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$55.00 per person; this includes pasta buffet lunch. Please let us know prior to conference if you are allergic to wheat or have other dietary requirements of which we should be aware. Refunds will be given for cancelled registrations until January 28, 2008.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: January 28, 2008

Please mail or fax completed form to MHSA with check to:

530 W. Ionia, Suite F, Lansing MI 48933

or Fax Registration to: 1-517-374-6478

Questions? Call MHSA at 1-517-374-6472 or E-mail: jennifer@mhsa.ws

To ensure adequate seating, please indicate session preference below:

Session I: 10:15 - 11:30

- ☐ 1. The Berenstain Bears' Papa or Eric Carle's Mr. Seahorse: How Books for Young Children Portray Fathers
- ☐ 2. The Next Level: An Open Space Panel for Practitioners Pt. 1
- ☐ 3. Navigating The Friend of the Court
- ☐ 4. A Different Kind of Dream: The Dynamics of Parenting Children with Special Needs

Session II: 1:30 - 2:45

- ☐ 5. Healing the Fatherhood Drama: How to Release & Let Go of Fatherhood Issues Pt. 1
(attendees should also attend part 2 of this workshop)
- ☐ 6. The Next Level: An Open Space Panel for Practitioners Pt. 2
- ☐ 7. FAST Babies: Engaging Fathers in their Baby's Life
- ☐ 8. If You Two Can't Play with that Toy Right... Coaching Your Children to Conflict Resolution

Session III: 3:00 - 4:15

- ☐ 9. Healing the Fatherhood Drama: How to Release & Let Go of Fatherhood Issues Pt. 2
(attendees should also attend part 1 of this workshop)
- ☐ 10. Together or Apart: Co-Parenting for the Best Interests of the Child
- ☐ 11. Court Mandated Fatherhood Programs: Helping Good Fathers to Be Better Fathers
- ☐ 12. Learn to Play, Play to Learn: Become the Play Expert in Your Family



Michigan Head Start Association
530 W. Ionia, Suite F
Lansing, MI 48933

*Working to promote equal opportunities for
all Head Start programs, children and families to succeed.*